CRACE CHURCH VISITOR

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GRACE REFORMED CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL,

VOLUME III.

FORT WAYNE, IND., JUNE, 1891.

NUMBER 6.

THE ANNUAL CLASSICAL MEETINGS.

The following representatives from Grace Church were present at the Classical meetings, recently held at Three Rivers, Mich. From the church and Sunday-school, the pastor and Elder D. W. Souder; Ladies Society and Sunday-school, Mrs. Zartman and Miss Emma Neireiter; Mission Band, Josie Zartman. Father Bolender also accompanied the Fort Wayne delegation to these meetings.

Sunday-school convention opened on Tuesday evening, 19th, and continued until Wednesday afternoon. The attendance was perhaps the largest in the history of the convention. Some forty or more delegates being present. A number of the topics assigned called forth prolonged and animated discussions. The reports read by the delegates indicated that much earnest and efficient work was done during the past year in our schools. Some of the schools in the bounds of classis have been wide awake, and have done exceptionally good work. They have increased their attendance, and have contributed liberally for the support of the schools, and for benevolent purposes. These conventions for Sunday school workers can be made very pleasant and profitable. They enable Pastors, Superintendents and Teachers, being laborers together in a common cause, to mingle with each other for a season, and to exchange ideas and discuss different methods of work. We feel confident that in these particulars the Three Rivers Convention was a very profitable one, and we hope that the delegates went away from these meetings carrying with them the inspiraiton of the convention, and that they will enter upon their work with new zeal, and will infuse an enthusiasm into the hearts of their fellow workers, and when another, year's toils shall have ended, may there be joyful recountings of the harvest which has been gathered for

The sessions of classis began on Wednesday evening. The opening sermon was preached by the retiring President, Rev. W. H. Xanders, of Bluffton, Ind. While the attendance at the evening session, when the organization was effected, was not so large, by the next day almost every pastoral charge of the classis was represented by its pastor and a lay dele-

gate. This was the largest representation St. Joseph classis has had at its annual meeting for many years.

Three ministers were received into classis during its sessions and settled over charges as follows: Rev. I. S. Hahn, Goshen, Ind., Rev. H. H. Sando, Denver, Ind., Rev. I. Rothen-berger, Plymouth, Ind. Committees were appointed for the instalation of these pastors. During the sessions on Thursday morning reports were read by the ministers, giving a brief summary of their year's work. These reports indicate that the pastors have been faithful in their work. The number of accessions to the different churches during the year was not so large, owing possibly to the fact that there was an unusual amount of sickness among the people, and the inclemency of the weather and bad roads, when many of the churches were holding special services.

The statistical reports show statistical for herevoler congregational for herevoler statistics was larger by some four thousand dollars than during the year previous. Some of the churches which had failed for a number of years to pay their apportionments were reported as paid in full for last year. This is an encouraging fact both to classis and the churches themselves, and it will no doubt have a stimulating effect upon other of our congregations.

The Sessions of Thursday afternoon and Friday were devoted to the revision of classical and synodical minutes, and hearing of reports from different committees. Classis adopted the new Hymn Book prepard by General Synod. This book is a very decided improvement over the Hymnal now in use. We hope that in the course of a year or so this book may be introduced into all our churches. The collection of hymns is large and very excellent.

Classis adjourned Friday evening at about 1 o'clock to meet in annual session May, '92, at Millersburg, Ind.

The sessions of the Women's Missionary Convention began on Thursday afternoon and continued until Friday noon. Delegates were present from thirteen local societies, which gave encouraging reports of the work they were doing for their congregations and for the church abroad. During the last year the Ladies' Classical Society supported the Neriah Mission. The coming year their funds will be sent to

the General Synod's Board of Home Missions. This is no doubt a move in the right direction. On Thursday evening the ladies held a public service, at which interesting papers were read by Mrs. Alt, Mrs. Xander, and Mrs. Zartman, and a brief address delivered by Rev. I. S. Hahn. The ladies should have a heartier co-operation in their work on the part of our pastors. Every congregation should be organized. We are confident our congregations would gain immensely by it, and much more money would be raised for benevolence.

The annual meeting of the Women's Society will be at Millersburg, Ind., May, '92.

The people at Three Rivers received the delegates to these conventions very cordialy. They are a very hospitable and pleasant people. Our delegates were all well pleased with their visit to this beautiful little city of rivers. The members of classis will be glad to meet among these people again.

CHURCH SOCIAL.

Supper, and Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival at the church parlors, Wednesday evening, June 10. The ladies who are to have this festival in charge are as follows: Mrs. John Vordermark, Mrs. Louisa Miller, Mrs. Valentine Munn, Mrs. Geo. Hassard, Mrs. Walter Mitchell, Mrs. Chas. Troxel, Mrs. John Shearer, Mrs. Bradley, Mrs. Henry Smith, Mrs. John Horn, Mrs. R. L. Romey, Mrs. Amelia Ayster, Mrs. Alfred Barbier, Mrs. Jessie Kelsey, Mrs. Jacob Keller. These ladies are to meet at the church to complete their arrangements on Monday, June 8. at 3 p. m.

Supper will be served from 5 to 9 p. m. Berries and ice cream at any hour in the evening.

Supper and either berries or ice cream 25c. Berries and cake, or ice cream and cake 15c. Berries and ice cream and cake 25c.

Rev. D. B. Shuey, of Emporia, Kan., Superintendent of Missions of the Interior Synod, spent Friday, May 29, with the Reformed pastors in the city. Mr. Shuey is very devoted to his work in the west, and speaks encouragingly of the outlook for our church in Kansas and other Western States.

Missionary Flowers, concert exercise Sabbath evening June 14th.

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REV. A. K. ZARTMAN, A. M., - - EDITOR.

Board of Managers; Rev. A. K. ZARTMAN, F. D. PAULUS, and D. W. SOUDER.

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THE MANAGEMENT OF THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

The management of the Sundayschool is of far greater importance than the management of the class, and many important points present themselves in the consideration of this subject.

The organization of the Sundayschool should be carefully attended to, for a mistake in plan may bring serious results. It should be under the immediate supervision of the church council or consistory. As the church is the parent of the school, it should, in a loyal manner, recognize and support the school. To the church belongs the selection of the superintendent and his assistant, the latter, however, should be chosen with the consent and approval of the former. There should be a wellprepared plan or constitution, brief, but explicit, stating the objects of the school, and defining the duties of its officers, the method of the election, and torm of office. The scholars should have no vote in the election of officers, though it might be well to consult the senior scholars in reference to the appointment of their teachers.

In the classification of the school the following departments should be recognized: The primary, the intermediate, the junior, the normal, and the senior. In the latter should be found the fathers and mothers of the scholars composing the lower grades.

As the superintendent is the chief executive of the school much depends upon his ability and adaptedness to his place. He should be a true Christian, enjoying the personal experience of salvation; an upright man, entitled to the respect of the community; a man of force and energy, one who will be felt in every department of the work. A man of sympathy. He must possess certain requisits essential to his peculiar work. He should be a thorough Bible student. An able excutive, for he has to manage many people of many interests. He should be devoted to his work, kind, genial and pleasant. He should aim to have a school of thorough teaching to make it a place of religious influence, a place of happiness, to surround it with an atmosphere of gladness and enjoyment.

But the best Superintendent cannot succeed without the assistance of the teachers under him. In this direction

the teacher should be punctual and regular in attendance. Should exercise a faithful obedience to every rule of the school. Should be in harmony with the other teachers, and exercise decipline in the control of his or her scholars. The teacher is the Superintendent's representative in the class.

The home is an important element in the management of the school. The pupil who comes—in company with its parents—from a rightly ordered home will give but little trouble either to teacher or Superintendent. Let the pupil be trained at home, during the week, in character and conduct, by counsel, command and example. The parent should co-operate with the school, for the good of the pupil.

Above all, the officers, teachers and parents should be inbued with the true spirit and love of the Master, for the souls of the little ones. If such be the case, then a school which Jesus loves to be present with, and bless, will be the result.

The pastor and family were very pleasantly entertained during the sessions of classis at Three Rivers by their old friends Mr. and Mrs. George Niedheart. They are some of the oldest residents of the place, and have a very pleasant home on the West Side. They are some of the oldest residents of the place, and have a very pleasant home on the West Side. They are some of the preachers. It has been the proof the preachers. It has been the proof pleasure to be the guest of these good people a number of times during former meetings of classis. Mr. Niedheart is a furuiture dealer, and has for many years been doing a thriving business in Three Rivers, and has become very widely known among the people in that portion of Michigan.

Thursday afternoon, May 7, Mr. Alfred Barbier and Miss Alice Cutler were joined in marriage at the home of the bride's parents on New Haven avenue. A pleasant little company of guests were present to enjoy the marriage festivitics. After the ceremony and supper Mr. and Mrs. Barbier took the train to Chicago where they remained for several days. Their future home will be on Maumee avenue. They have a host of friends in the city, all of whom wish them well, and a happy future.

The Reformed Herald, formerly issued from Akron, Ohio, by Rev. R. C. Zartman, with the change of the pastorate has changed its name to Heidelbery Herald, and is now issued from Philadelphia, Pa. The first number is just out, and is full of good tidings from the "City of Brotherly Love."

Sabbath afternoon, April 26, Bruno Henry, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Katt. received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

MISSIONARY FLOWERS.

This is the title of a concert exercise which the young people and children of the church will render Sabbath evening, June 14th. We hope to make this Sabbath a "rallying day" for the children and young people. "Missionary Flowers" is one of the choicest Children's Day exercises we ever examined. It contains a number of excellent recitations and dialogues for boys, and girls. The songs are new and spirited. The entertainment promises to be one of the The children, members, and friends of the church will be furnished with special envelopes for the collection at this service. The amount collected will be the beginning of a fund which shall be raised by the Sunday-school for our church building. We are anxious to get "all hands to work." May this collection be a liberal one, so that the children and young people may get a good send-off in their first effort in this enterprise. If you should fail to be supplied with an envelope, do not fail to come with an offering. You can secure envelopes by asking of the pastor or officers of the church. Be sure to get envelopes and put your names on them, as an accurate account will be kept of the amounts contributed by every child, and member and friend of the church toward our building fund.

We also want bushels, of roses and other flowers for decorations on that day. The flowers must be brought to the church on Saturday previous in the forenoon, or early in the afternoon.

At the time of the issuing of this number of The VISITOR the General Synod of the Reformed church is holding a special session at Philadelphia, to consider and act upon the following matters, namely:

1. To receive and take action upon the report of the Joint Commission on Federal Union of the two Reformed Churches, and to consider any question growing out of said report and requiring the attention of synod.

2. To consider a communication from a committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America in regard to the matter of a Consensus Creed for the use of the Reformed Churches holding the Presbyterian system.

Sabbath morning May 31st, the Superintendent of the Orphan's Home and his devoted wife, and some forty or more of the little folks from the Home attended the service at the Grace Church. Their attendance was a surprise, but the pastor and church were glad to see them. We hope they may surprise us often. The pastor will aim to be always ready for such emergencies, and have a word for the children.

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BRIEF AND PERSONAL.

Quarterly communion services Sabbath morning June 14th.

Supper Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival, Wednesday evening June 10th.

Arrangements will be made so that the pulpit will be filled at least part of the time during the pastor's vacation.

Miss Mollie Buckwalter has gone to visit with friends in Philadelphia, where she will remain until about the first of August.

Fred Cook has been quite ill at the City Hospital. His condition is much improved, and we shall hope to see him at our services soon again.

Monthly business meeting of Young People's Society, Tuesday evening June 9th. Let every member be at this meeting. Come prepared to pay your dues.

Total net receipts of the Ladies Bazaar up to date are, \$647.57. The ladies have loaned this money to the Tri-State Loan Association, for one year at 8 per cent.

Thursday evening June 11th, the pastor will assist at the installation of Rev. I. S. Hahn, Goshen, Ind. Rev. W. H. Xander of Bluffton, and Rev. S. Shaw of Marmont are the other members of the installation committee.

At the monthly meeting, June 1st, the consistory very generously granted the pastor a vacation of three or four weeks. No preventing Providence the pastor

and family will go on their vacation the latter part of the present month, taking their outing with friends at Glenford and Canton, Ohio.

The commencement exercises of Heidelberg University at Tiffin, Ohio, will be held during the week begining with June 14th. The graduating class numbers some thirty this year.

Sometime in the near future a congregational meeting will be called to devise plans and methods to raise money for the new church building. Notice of this meeting will be given in due time from the pulpit and in the VISITOR.

The Salem Reformed Church, Dutch Ridge, will hold its annual Strawberry and Ice Cream Festival Saturday evening, June 31st.

The Sabbath School of the Salem Church is in a very prosperous condition this season. The attendance is quite large, and much interest is manifested. The school should arrange for an old-fashioned picnic sometime after harvest. These picnics are always enjoyed by our country people.

The mid-summer communion services will be held Sabbath morning June 14th, Preparatory services Friday evening previous. There should be a large attendance at these services. Do not forget to bring a liberal offering unto the Lord on the casion. Applicants for church membership will be received at the morning service. In the evening a service entitled "Missionnary Flowers," will be rendered by the Sabbath School. Do all you can to make this a profitable day for the church, for your friends and for yourself.

Our Church Treasurer, James Lonergan, makes encouraging reports of the finances of the church. Systematic giving enables him to meet the current expenses of the church promptly. A few of the members have been allowing their accounts to get slightly in arrears. About the 1st of July quarterly statements will again be issued to all the members, then let those who are in arrears try to catch up in their payments. Every member of the church will be glad to know that our finances are in such an encouraging condition and will feel stimulated to continue giving liberally and systematically.

PRAYER.

More things are wrought by prayer Than this world dreams of. Wherefore let thy

Rise like a fountain for me night and day; For what are men better than sheep or goats, That nourish a blind life within the brain, If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer, Both for themselves and those who call them friends?

For so the whole round earth is every way Bound by gold chains about the feet of God. -Tennyson.

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Y. P. S. C. E. PRAYER-MEETING TOPICS AND LEADERS.

June 7, Lessons from the life of Hezekiah, 2 Chron. 31: 20, 21; 2, Kings 20: 3. Eugene Mathis.

June 14, "Our Fathers Book. How Shall we use It?" Prov. 3: 1-4; Josh. 1: 8; John 5: 39. Katie Vordermark.

June 21, "How can we return to God?" 1 John 1:9; Deut. 4: 29. Oscar Miller.

June 28, "Why Should we Praise the Lord?" Ps. 86:12, 13; 1'Peter 2:9. Consecration meeting, and Praise Service. Emma Neireiter.

July 5, "Christ in our Homes." Luke 24:29; 19:5. Clara Piepenbrink.

July 12, "Come and See," John 4: 27-38; Acts. 4: 13. James Romy.

July 19, "Whatsover He sayeth unto you, do it." Matt. 21: 28; 14: 16, Eph. 6: 6. Nora Romy.

July 29, Consecration meeting. Lessons from the Timid Diciples. John 3: 2; 7: 50-53; 19, 39. Birdie Saffern.

THE MISSIONARY GUARDIAN.

This is the name of a monthly published by the Reformed Church in the interest of Home aud Foreign Missions. Its publication began with the first of the year. So far every number has been a gem. It ives the plans and operations our various Mission Boards, and brief reports from missions and missionaries. Several pages of the monthly are devoted to the ladies' societies. The last issues contains several very interesting letters from our missionaries in Japan.

We are sorry to learn that the circulation of this valuable publication is so limited. The subscription price is only 50 cents per year. At this price the monthly is within the reach of every person. It should be in all our families. The pastor has written to the publishers for a supply of sample copies, with the hope that when our people shall see the magazine they will cheerfully subscribe for it.

Excursion by the Young People's Society, about the middle of August. Wait and go with them.

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